

Upstream Kernel Hardening: Progress on enabling `-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end`

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Who am I?



By @shidokou

Who am I?

- **Upstream first** – 9 years.
- Upstream Linux Kernel Engineer.
 - Kernel hardening.
 - Proactive security.



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Who am I?

- **Upstream first** – 9 years.
- Upstream Linux Kernel Engineer.
 - Kernel hardening.
 - Proactive security.
- Kernel Self-Protection Project (**KSPP**).
- Google Open Source Security Team (**GOSST**).
 - Linux Kernel division.



By @shidokou

Agenda

- **Introduction**
 - C99 flexible-array members (FAMs)
 - The new *-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end* compiler option
- **The challenge of *-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end***
 - What's wrong with FAMs in the middle?
 - Fixing thousands of *-Wfamnae* warnings
- **Conclusions**

Quick review of C99 flexible-array members

- Should be the last member of a struct.

```
struct flex {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo fam[];  
};
```

Quick review of C99 flexible-array members

- Should be the last member of a struct.
- **struct flex** may not be a member of another struct.

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struct flex {  
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    size_t count;  
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Quick review of C99 flexible-array members

- Should be the last member of a struct.
- **struct flex** *may not be a member of another struct.*
- The flex struct usually contains a **counter** member.

```
struct flex {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
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```

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struct flex {  
    ...  
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```

Quick review of C99 flexible-array members

- Should be the last member of a struct.
- **struct flex** may not be a member of another struct.
- The flex struct usually contains a **counter** member..
- Run-time bounds-checking coverage on FAMs. (blogpost)

```
struct flex {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
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};
```

The new `-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end`

- Developed by Qing Zhao (2023)
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- [GCC features to help harden the kernel](#) (LWN.net article)

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```
struct flex {
    ...
    size_t count;
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};

struct composite {
    ...

    struct flex middle;

    ... more objects ...
};
```

The new -Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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struct flex {  
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The new -Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

- Warns about FAMs in the middle of composite structs.

```
struct composite {  
    ...  
-   struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning! */  
    ... more objects ...  
+   struct flex last;  
};
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The new -Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

- Warns about FAMs in the middle of composite structs.

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struct composite {  
    ...  
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    ... more objects ...  
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The new -Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

- Warns about FAMs in the middle of composite structs.

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struct composite {  
    ...  
-   struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning! */  
    ... more objects ...  
+   struct flex last;   /* This is fine! */  
};
```

```
struct another {  
    ...  
    struct composite middle;  
    ... more objects ...  
};
```

The new -Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

- Warns about FAMs in the middle of composite structs.

```
struct composite {  
    ...  
-   struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning! */  
    ... more objects ...  
+   struct flex last;   /* This is fine! */  
};
```

```
struct another {  
    ...  
    struct composite middle; /* -Wfamnae warning! */  
    ... more objects ...  
};
```

The challenge of enabling

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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 - the last member

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What's wrong with FAMs in the middle?

- Flex struct in a composite struct **is an extension.**
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 - **not the last member**

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struct composite {  
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```

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struct composite {  
    ...  
  
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    ... more objects ...  
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What's wrong with FAMs in the middle?

- Flex struct in a composite struct **is an extension.**
- The flex struct can be either:
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 - **not the last member – This is deprecated now.**

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struct composite {  
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What's wrong with FAMs in the middle?

- “Compilers do not handle such a case consistently. **Any code relying on this case should be modified to ensure that flexible array members only end up at the ends of structures.**” -GCC Docs.

```
struct composite {  
    ...  
    struct flex middle; /* TODO: Fix me! ^-^ */  
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What's wrong with FAMs in the middle?

- “Compilers do not handle such a case consistently. **Any code relying on this case should be modified to ensure that flexible array members only end up at the ends of structures.**” -GCC Docs.

```
struct composite {  
    ...  
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};
```

So, we have more than **60K**
-**Wfamaae warnings** to address

Fixing thousands of

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end warnings

Fixing thousands of -Wfamnae warnings in Linux

```
struct flex {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);  
};  
  
struct composite {  
    ...  
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Fixing thousands of -Wfamnae warnings in Linux

- **Before** Flex-Array Transformations: 8,000 warnings

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struct flex {  
    ...  
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    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);  
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Fixing thousands of -Wfamnae warnings in Linux

- **Before** Flex-Array Transformations: 8,000 warnings
- **After** years of kernel hardening: more than 60,000 warnings

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struct flex {  
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Fixing thousands of -Wfamnae warnings in Linux

- **Before** Flex-Array Transformations: 8,000 warnings
- **After** years of kernel hardening: more than 60,000 warnings
- 650 unique issues

```
struct flex {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);  
};  
  
struct composite {  
    ...  
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */  
    ... more objects ...  
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```

Different cases of

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end warnings

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 1: **FAM never actually used.**

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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```
struct wl1251_cmd_header {  
    u16 id;  
    u16 status;  
    /* payload */  
    u8 data[];  
} __packed;
```

```
struct cmd_read_write_memory {  
    struct wl1251_cmd_header header; /* -Wfamae warning */  
  
    u32 addr;  
    u32 size;  
    u8 value[MAX_READ_SIZE];  
} __packed;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 1: **FAM never actually used.**

- No heap space is allocated for them anywhere.

```
struct wl1251_cmd_header {  
    u16 id;  
    u16 status;  
    /* payload */  
    u8 data[];  
} __packed;
```

```
struct cmd_read_write_memory {  
    struct wl1251_cmd_header header; /* -Wfamae warning */  
  
    u32 addr;  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 1: **FAM never actually used.**

- f4b09b29f8b4 (“wifi: ti: Avoid a hundred -Wflex-array...”)

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    u16 id;  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

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Case 2: **FAM** never accessed through the composite struct.

```
struct flex {
    int a;
    int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[];
};

struct composite {
    ...
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */
    ...
} *p;
...

do_something_with(p->middle.a, p->middle.b);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM** never accessed through the composite struct.

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struct flex {  
    int a;  
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    struct foo fam[];  
};
```

```
struct composite {  
    ...  
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */  
    ...  
} *p;  
...
```

```
/* We may access the rest of the members in struct flex */  
do_something_with(p->middle.a, p->middle.b);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

```
struct flex {  
    int a;  
    int b;  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo fam[];  
};
```

But something like this

```
... p->middle.fam ...
```

never actually occurs.

```
struct composite {  
    ...  
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */  
    ...  
} *p;  
...
```

```
/* We may access the rest of the members in struct flex */  
do_something_with(p->middle.a, p->middle.b);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM** never accessed through the composite struct.

- What can we do about it?

```
struct flex {
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[];
};

struct composite {
    ...
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */
    ...
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM** never accessed through the composite struct.

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};
```

```
struct flex_hdr {
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Two separate structs: original struct & header struct

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};
```

```
struct flex_hdr { /* a new struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Two separate structs: original struct & header struct
- New header struct named after original flex struct.

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};
```

```
struct flex_hdr { /* a new struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Two separate structs: original struct & header struct
- New header struct named after original flex struct.

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};

struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Two separate structs: original struct & header struct

```
struct composite { /* BEFORE */
    ...
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning :( */
    ...
};
```

```
struct composite { /* AFTER */
    ...
    struct flex_hdr middle;
    ...
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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- Two separate structs: original struct & header struct

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struct composite { /* BEFORE */
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struct composite { /* AFTER */
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    ...
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```

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Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Two separate structs: original struct & header struct

```
struct composite { /* BEFORE */
    ...
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning :( */
    ...
};

struct composite { /* AFTER */
    ...
    struct flex_hdr middle; /* Life's beautiful! ^. ^ */
    ...
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- What's the problem with this?

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};

struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Duplicate code.

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};

struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
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struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Duplicate code.
- Maintain two independent but basically identical structs.

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};

struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

```
struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};

struct flex { /* original struct */
    struct flex_hdr hdr;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(.hdr.count);
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- The “counter” cannot be in a non-anonymous sub struct.

```
struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

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struct flex { /* original struct */
    struct flex_hdr hdr;
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struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */  
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```

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struct flex { /* original struct */  
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    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(.hdr.count);  
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- The “counter” cannot be in a non-anonymous sub struct.
- `__counted_by(.hdr.count);` is not supported **yet**.

```
struct flex_hdr { /* All members in struct flex except the FAM */
    int a; int b;
    size_t count;
};
```

```
struct flex { /* original struct */
    struct flex_hdr hdr;
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(.hdr.count);
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Use `struct_group_tagged()/__struct_group()`

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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struct flex { /* BEFORE */  
  
    int a; int b;  
    size_t count;  
  
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);  
};  
  
struct composite { /* BEFORE */  
    ...  
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */  
    ...  
} *p;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- Use `struct_group_tagged()/__struct_group()`

```
struct flex { /* AFTER */
    /* New members must be added within the struct_group() macro below. */
    struct_group_tagged(flex_hdr, hdr,
        int a; int b;
        size_t count;
    );
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};
```

```
struct composite { /* BEFORE */
    ...
    struct flex middle; /* -Wfamnae warning */
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        size_t count;
    );
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};
```

```
struct composite { /* AFTER */
    ...
    struct flex_hdr middle; /* FAM is gone! ^.^ */
    ...
} *p;
```

The `struct_group()` family of helpers

```
#define struct_group_tagged(TAG, NAME, MEMBERS...) \
    union { \
        struct { MEMBERS }; \
        struct TAG { MEMBERS } NAME; \
    }
```

The `struct_group()` family of helpers

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The `struct_group()` family of helpers

- Access each member `directly` or via the named struct.

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The `struct_group()` family of helpers

- Access each member `directly` or via the named struct.
- Creates `a new struct type and define an identifier` for the group – via which we can even gain bounds-checking.

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#define struct_group_tagged(TAG, NAME, MEMBERS...) \
    union { \
        struct { MEMBERS }; \
        struct TAG { MEMBERS } NAME; \
    }
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```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM** never accessed through the composite struct.

- Use `struct_group_tagged()/__struct_group()`

```
struct flex { /* AFTER */
    /* New members must be added within the struct_group() macro below. */
    struct_group_tagged(flex_hdr, hdr,
        int a; int b;
        size_t count;
    );
    struct foo fam[] __counted_by(count);
};

struct composite { /* AFTER */
    ...
    struct flex_hdr middle; /* FAM is gone! ^.^ */
    ...
} *p;
```

```
{
    p->middle.a
    p->middle.b
    p->middle.count
}

==

{
    p->middle.hdr.a
    p->middle.hdr.b
    p->middle.hdr.count
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- 5c4250092fad (“wifi: mwl8k: Avoid -Wflex-array-...”)

```
struct mwl8k_cmd_pkt {  
-   __le16 code;  
-   __le16 length;  
-   __u8 seq_num;  
-   __u8 macid;  
-   __le16 result;  
+   __struct_group(mwl8k_cmd_pkt_hdr, hdr, __packed,  
+       __le16 code;  
+       __le16 length;  
+       __u8 seq_num;  
+       __u8 macid;  
+       __le16 result;  
+   );  
    char payload[];  
} __packed;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 2: **FAM never accessed through the composite struct.**

- 5c4250092fad (“wifi: mw18k: Avoid -Wflex-array-...”)

```
struct mw18k_cmd_pkt {  
-   __le16 code;  
-   __le16 length;  
-   __u8 seq_num;  
-   __u8 macid;  
-   __le16 result;  
+   __struct_group(mw18k_cmd_pkt_hdr, hdr, __packed,  
+       __le16 code;  
+       __le16 length;  
+       __u8 seq_num;  
+       __u8 macid;  
+       __le16 result;  
+   );  
    char payload[];  
} __packed;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

- 5c4250092fad (“wifi: mwl8k: Avoid -Wflex-array-...”)
- Replace *mwl8k_cmd_pkt* with *mwl8k_cmd_pkt_hdr*

```
struct mwl8k_cmd_rf_antenna {  
- struct mwl8k_cmd_pkt header;  
+ struct mwl8k_cmd_pkt_hdr header;  
  __le16 antenna;  
  __le16 mode;  
} __packed;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

- 5c4250092fad (“wifi: mwl8k: Avoid -Wflex-array-...”)
- Replace *mwl8k_cmd_pkt* with *mwl8k_cmd_pkt_hdr*

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struct mwl8k_cmd_rf_antenna {  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

```
struct flex_struct {
    ...
    size_t count;
    struct foo flex_array[];
};

struct composite_struct {
    ...

    struct flex_struct flex_in_the_middle;
    struct foo fixed_array[MAX_LENGTH];
    ...
} __packed;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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```
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    ...
    size_t count;
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    ...  
    size_t count;  
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    ...  
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} __packed;
```

- `flex_array` and `fixed_array` share the same address in memory - in the best scenario.
- Both form an implicit union.

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

```
struct flex_struct {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo flex_array[];  
};  
  
struct composite_struct {  
    ...  
  
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```

- `flex_array` and `fixed_array` share the same address in memory - in the best scenario.
- Both form an implicit union.
- The `composite_struct`'s alignment may change.

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```
struct flex_struct {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo flex_array[];  
};  
  
struct composite_struct {  
    ...  
    struct flex_struct flex_in_the_middle;  
    struct foo fixed_array[MAX_LENGTH];  
    ...  
} __packed;
```

- `flex_array` and `fixed_array` share the same address in memory - in the best scenario.
- Both form an implicit union.
- The `composite_struct`'s alignment may change.
- `static_assert()` is necessary.

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Trailing padding

```
struct virtio_net_rss_config_trailer {                                /* offset size*/
    __le16      max_tx_vq;                                          /*      0      2 */
    __u8        hash_key_length;                                    /*      2      1 */
    __u8        hash_key_data[];                                    /*      3      0 */
    /* size: 4, cachelines: 1, members: 3 */
    /* padding: 1 */
    /* last cacheline: 4 bytes */
};

struct virtnet_info {
...                                                                    /* offset size*/
    struct virtio_net_rss_config_trailer rss_trailer; /*      80      4 */
    /* XXX last struct has 1 byte of padding */
    u8          rss_hash_key_data[40]; /*      84     40 */
...
};
```


-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Trailing padding

```
struct virtio_net_rss_config_trailer {                                /* offset size*/
    __le16      max_tx_vq;                                          /*      0      2 */
    __u8        hash_key_length;                                    /*      2      1 */
    __u8        hash_key_data[];                                   /*      3      0 */
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Trailing padding - [PATCH] virtio_net: Fix alignment...

```
struct virtio_net_rss_config_trailer {                                /* offset size*/
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    __u8        hash_key_data[];                                   /*    3    0 */
    /* size: 4, cachelines: 1, members: 3 */
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```

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Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

```
struct ima_digest_data { /* flexible struct */
+   /* New members must be added within the __struct_group() macro below. */
+   __struct_group(ima_digest_data_hdr, hdr, __packed,
        u8 algo;
        u8 length;
        ...
+   );
    u8 digest[];
} __packed;

/* implicit union: FAM & fixed-size array*/
struct ima_max_digest_data {
-   struct ima_digest_data_hdr;
+   struct ima_digest_data_hdr;
    u8 digest[HASH_MAX_DIGESTSIZE];
} __packed;
```

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- However, **FAM digest** is accessed at run-time.

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    u8 digest[HASH_MAX_DIGESTSIZE];  
} __packed;
```

```
struct ima_max_digest_data hash;
```

```
...
```

```
/* read data from the FAM digest */
```

```
memcpy(digest_hash, hash.hdr.digest, digest_hash_len);
```

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```

```
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```

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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

- Use **container_of()** to get a pointer to the flex struct.
- Access FAM through that pointer.

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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- Use **container_of()** to get a pointer to the flex struct.
- Access FAM through that pointer.

```
struct ima_max_digest_data hash; /* struct with implicit union */  
+ struct ima_digest_data *hash_hdr = container_of(&hash.hdr,  
+ struct ima_digest_data, hdr);
```

... `hash_hdr` is now a pointer to flex struct `ima_digest_data`

```
/* read data from the FAM digest */  
- memcpy(digest_hash, hash.hdr.digest, digest_hash_len);  
+ memcpy(digest_hash, hash_hdr->digest, digest_hash_len);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

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+ );
    u8 digest[];
} __packed;

/* implicit union: FAM & fixed-size array*/
struct ima_max_digest_data {
- struct ima_digest_data_hdr;
+ struct ima_digest_data_hdr hdr;
    u8 digest[HASH_MAX_DIGESTSIZE];
} __packed;

struct ima_max_digest_data hash; /* struct with implicit union */
+ struct ima_digest_data *hash_hdr = container_of(&hash.hdr,
+ struct ima_digest_data, hdr);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

- Use **container_of()** to get a pointer to the flex struct.
- Access FAM through that pointer.
- 38aa3f5ac6d2 (“integrity: Avoid -Wflex-array-member...”)

```
struct ima_max_digest_data hash; /* struct with implicit union */  
+ struct ima_digest_data *hash_hdr = container_of(&hash.hdr,  
+ struct ima_digest_data, hdr);
```

... `hash_hdr` is now a pointer to flex struct `ima_digest_data`

```
/* read data from the FAM digest */  
- memcpy(digest_hash, hash.hdr.digest, digest_hash_len);  
+ memcpy(digest_hash, hash_hdr->digest, digest_hash_len);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 3: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type.

- Use **container_of()** to get a pointer to the flex struct.
- Access FAM through that pointer.
- 38aa3f5ac6d2 (“integrity: Avoid -Wflex-array-member...”)

```
struct ima_max_digest_data hash; /* struct with implicit union */  
+ struct ima_digest_data *hash_hdr = container_of(&hash.hdr,  
+ struct ima_digest_data, hdr);
```

... **hash_hdr** is now a pointer to flex struct **ima_digest_data**

```
/* read data from the FAM digest */  
- memcpy(digest_hash, hash.hdr.digest, digest_hash_len);  
+ memcpy(digest_hash, hash_hdr->digest, digest_hash_len);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
struct flex_struct {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo flex_array[];  
};
```

```
int some_function(...)  
{  
    struct {  
        struct flex_struct flex; /* on-stack -Wfamnae warning */  
        struct foo fixed_array[10];  
    } obj = ...  
    ...  
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
struct flex_struct {  
    ...  
    size_t count;  
    struct foo flex_array[];  
};
```

```
int some_function(...)  
{  
    struct {  
        struct flex_struct flex; /* on-stack -Wfamnae warning */  
        struct foo fixed_array[10];  
    } obj = ...  
    ...  
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
struct flex_struct {
    ...
    size_t count;
    struct foo flex_array[]; /* flex-array member */
};

int some_function(...)
{
    struct {
        struct flex_struct flex; /* on-stack -Wfamnae warning */
        struct foo fixed_array[10]; /* fixed-size array */
    } obj = ...
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
struct fun_admin_bind_req {
    struct fun_admin_req_common common;
    struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[];
};

int fun_bind(...)
{
    struct {
        struct fun_admin_bind_req req; /* on-stack -Wfamnae warning */
        struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];
    } cmd = ...
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
struct fun_admin_bind_req {
    struct fun_admin_req_common common;
    struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[];
};

int fun_bind(...)
{
    struct {
        struct fun_admin_bind_req req; /* on-stack -Wfamae warning */
        struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];
    } cmd = ...
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
struct fun_admin_bind_req {
    struct fun_admin_req_common common;
    struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[];      /* flex-array member */
};

int fun_bind(...)
{
    struct {
        struct fun_admin_bind_req req; /* on-stack -Wfamae warning */
        struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2]; /* fixed-size array */
    } cmd = ...
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
- } cmd = {  
-     .req.common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
-                                             sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+                                         __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
+ cmd->entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
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-                                             sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+                                         __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
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- } cmd = {  
-     .req.common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
-                                               sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+     __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

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- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
- } cmd = {  
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-                                               sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+     __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
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```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

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- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
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-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

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-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
- } cmd = {  
-     .req.common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
-                                               sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+                                         __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
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-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
- } cmd = {  
-     .req.common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
-                                               sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+                                           __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
+ cmd->entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
- } cmd = {  
-     .req.common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
-                                               sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+                                           __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
+ cmd->entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_req req;  
-     struct fun_admin_bind_entry entry[2];  
- } cmd = {  
-     .req.common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
-                                               sizeof(cmd)),  
-     .entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0),  
-     .entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1),  
- };  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct fun_admin_bind_req, cmd, entry, 2);  
+  
+ cmd->common = FUN_ADMIN_REQ_COMMON_INIT2(FUN_ADMIN_OP_BIND,  
+                                         __struct_size(cmd));  
+ cmd->entry[0] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type0, id0);  
+ cmd->entry[1] = FUN_ADMIN_BIND_ENTRY_INIT(type1, id1);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4a: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and fixed-size arrays of the same element type – **on stack**.

- We use **DECLARE_FLEX()** and **DECLARE_RAW_FLEX()** helpers.
- Some examples:
 - 6c85a13b133f (“platform/chrome: cros_ec_proto:...”)
 - 4d69c58ef2e4 (“fsnotify: Avoid -Wflex-array-mem...”)
 - 215c4704208b (“Bluetooth: L2CAP: Avoid -Wflex-...”)

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
struct cros_ec_command {
    ...
    uint8_t data[];
};

static size_t cros_ec_pdinfo_read(...)
{
    ...
    struct {
        struct cros_ec_command msg;
        union {
            struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1 resp;
            struct ec_params_usb_pd_control params;
        };
    } __packed ec_buf;
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
struct cros_ec_command {
    ...
    uint8_t data[];
};

static size_t cros_ec_pdinfo_read(...)
{
    ...
    struct {
        struct cros_ec_command msg;
        union {
            struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1 resp;
            struct ec_params_usb_pd_control params;
        };
    } __packed ec_buf;
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
struct cros_ec_command {
    ...
    uint8_t data[];
};

static size_t cros_ec_pdinfo_read(...)
{
    ...
    struct {
        struct cros_ec_command msg;
        union {
            struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1 resp;
            struct ec_params_usb_pd_control params;
        };
    } __packed ec_buf;
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;  
-     union {  
-         struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1 resp;  
-         struct ec_params_usb_pd_control params;  
-     };  
- } __packed ec_buf;  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
+                 MAX(sizeof(struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1),  
+                     sizeof(struct ec_params_usb_pd_control)));
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
- struct {  
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;  
-     union {  
-         struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1 resp;  
-         struct ec_params_usb_pd_control params;  
-     };  
- } __packed ec_buf;  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
+                 MAX(sizeof(struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1),  
+                 sizeof(struct ec_params_usb_pd_control)));
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

– da90147bf52b (“platform/chrome: cros_ec_debugfs:...”)

```
- struct {  
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;  
-     union {  
-         struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1 resp;  
-         struct ec_params_usb_pd_control params;  
-     };  
- } __packed ec_buf;  
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
+                 MAX(sizeof(struct ec_response_usb_pd_control_v1),  
+                     sizeof(struct ec_params_usb_pd_control)));
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
static int cros_ec_sleep_event(...)
{
    ...
    struct {
        struct cros_ec_command msg;
        union {
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
            struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
        } u;
    } __packed buf;
    ...
}
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

```
+union cros_ec_sleep_data {
+    struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
+    struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
+    struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
+} __packed;
...
- struct {
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;
-     union {
-         struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
-         struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
-         struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
-     } u;
- } __packed ec_buf;
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,
+                 sizeof(union cros_ec_sleep_data));
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

– Re: [PATCH][next] platform/chrome: cros_ec: Avoid...

```
"> + DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
> +                 sizeof(union cros_ec_sleep_data));
```

Is it possible to use something similar to:

```
MAX(MAX(sizeof(A), sizeof(B)),  
     sizeof(C))
```

so that the union doesn't need to be defined?"

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

- (ab)using DEFINE_RAW_FLEX() (blogpost in progress...)

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

- (ab)using DEFINE_RAW_FLEX() (blogpost in progress...)
- DEFINE_RAW_FLEX() was not created for this scenario

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

Case 4b: **Implicit unions** between FAMs and objects of any type – **on stack**.

- (ab)using DEFINE_RAW_FLEX() (blogpost in progress...)
- DEFINE_RAW_FLEX() was not created for this scenario
- We probably need a new helper... 🤔

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
#define TRAILING_OVERLAP(TYPE, NAME, FAM, MEMBERS) \
    union { \
        TYPE NAME; \
        struct { \
            unsigned char __offset_to##FAM[offsetof(TYPE, FAM)]; \
            MEMBERS; \
        }; \
    }
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

- Creates a **union** between a FAM and a set of MEMBERS that would otherwise follow it.

```
#define TRAILING_OVERLAP(TYPE, NAME, FAM, MEMBERS) \
    union { \
        TYPE NAME; \
        struct { \
            unsigned char __offset_to##FAM[offsetof(TYPE, FAM)]; \
            MEMBERS; \
        }; \
    }
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

- Creates a **union** between a FAM and a set of MEMBERS that would otherwise follow it.
- **Overlays** the trailing MEMBERS onto the FAM while preserving the original memory layout.

```
#define TRAILING_OVERLAP(TYPE, NAME, FAM, MEMBERS) \
    union { \
        TYPE NAME; \
        struct { \
            unsigned char __offset_to##FAM[offsetof(TYPE, FAM)]; \
            MEMBERS; \
        }; \
    }
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
struct {  
    struct cros_ec_command msg;  
    union {  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;  
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;  
    } u;  
} __packed buf;
```

```
struct cros_ec_command {  
    ...  
    uint8_t data[];  
};
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
struct {
    struct cros_ec_command msg;
    union {
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
    } u;
} __packed buf;

struct cros_ec_command {
    ...
    uint8_t data[];
};

union {
    struct cros_ec_command msg;
    struct {
        unsigned char __offset_to_data[offsetof(struct cros_ec_command, data)];
        union {
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
            struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
        } u;
    }
} __packed buf;

/* Open-coded TRAILING_OVERLAP() */
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
struct {
    struct cros_ec_command msg;
    union {
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
    } u;
} __packed buf;

struct cros_ec_command {
    ...
    uint8_t data[];
};

union {
    struct cros_ec_command msg;
    struct {
        unsigned char __offset_to_data[offsetof(struct cros_ec_command, data)];
        union {
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
            struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
        } u;
    }
} __packed buf;

/* Open-coded TRAILING_OVERLAP() */
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
struct {
    struct cros_ec_command msg;
    union {
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
    } u;
} __packed buf;

struct cros_ec_command {
    ...
    uint8_t data[];
};

union {
    struct cros_ec_command msg;
    struct {
        unsigned char __offset_to_data[offsetof(struct cros_ec_command, data)];
        union {
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
            struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
            struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
        } u;
    }
} __packed buf;

/* Open-coded TRAILING_OVERLAP() */
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
struct {  
    struct cros_ec_command msg;  
    union {  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;  
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;  
    } u;  
} __packed buf;
```

```
struct cros_ec_command {  
    ...  
    uint8_t data[];  
};
```

```
TRAILING_OVERLAP(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
    union {  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;  
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;  
    } u;  
) __packed buf;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
+union cros_ec_sleep_data {
+    struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
+    struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
+    struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
+} __packed;
...
- struct {
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;
-     union {
-         struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;
-         struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;
-         struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;
-     } u;
- } __packed ec_buf;
+ DEFINE_RAW_FLEX(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,
+                 sizeof(union cros_ec_sleep_data));
```

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TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

```
- struct {  
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;  
+ TRAILING_OVERLAP(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
    union {  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;  
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;  
    } u;  
- } __packed ec_buf;  
+ ) __packed ec_buf;
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

- [PATCH v2] platform/chrome: cros_ec: Avoid...

```
- struct {  
-     struct cros_ec_command msg;  
+ TRAILING_OVERLAP(struct cros_ec_command, msg, data,  
    union {  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event req0;  
        struct ec_params_host_sleep_event_v1 req1;  
        struct ec_response_host_sleep_event_v1 resp1;  
    } u;  
- } __packed ec_buf;  
+ ) __packed ec_buf;
```

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TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

- Superior to `__struct_group()/container_of()` in many cases

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TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

- Superior to `__struct_group()/container_of()` in many cases

```
struct ima_digest_data { /* flexible struct */
+ /* New members must be added within the __struct_group() macro below. */
+ __struct_group(ima_digest_data_hdr, hdr, __packed,
    u8 algo;
    u8 length;
    ...
+ );
    u8 digest[];
} __packed;

/* implicit union: FAM & fixed-size array*/
struct ima_max_digest_data {
- struct ima_digest_data_hdr;
+ struct ima_digest_data_hdr hdr;
    u8 digest[HASH_MAX_DIGESTSIZE];
} __packed;

    struct ima_max_digest_data hash; /* struct with implicit union */
+ struct ima_digest_data *hash_hdr = container_of(&hash.hdr,
+ struct ima_digest_data, hdr);
```

-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end

TRAILING_OVERLAP() - A new helper

- Superior to `__struct_group()/container_of()` in many cases

```
struct ima_max_digest_data {  
-   struct ima_digest_data hdr;  
-   u8 digest[HASH_MAX_DIGESTSIZE];  
+   TRAILING_OVERLAP(struct ima_digest_data, hdr, digest,  
+       u8 digest[HASH_MAX_DIGESTSIZE];  
+   );  
} __packed;
```

The evolution of -Wfamnae approaches

The evolution of -Wfamnae approaches

- Separate struct flex_hdr { ... }; and struct flex { ... };
- __struct_group()/container_of()
- DEFINE_FLEX()/DEFINE_RAW_FLEX()
- (ab)using DEFINE_RAW_FLEX()
- The new TRAILING_OVERLAP() helper.

The evolution of -Wfamnae approaches

[PATCH v5][for-next/hardening] acpi: nfit: Avoid multiple...

- Changes in v5:
 - Fix union initialization.
 - Leave trailing object indentation unchanged.
- Changes in v4:
 - Use the new TRAILING_OVERLAP() helper.
- Changes in v3:
 - Use union instead of DEFINE_RAW_FLEX().
- Changes in v2:
 - Use DEFINE_RAW_FLEX() instead of __struct_group().
- V1: Use __struct_group()

Conclusions

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A three-step approach for the complex case:

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A three-step approach for the complex case:

- Use **struct_group_tagged()** to create a new tagged struct.
 - This groups together all members in the flex struct **except the FAM.**
- **Change the type** of the conflicting object to the newly created tagged struct.
- Use **container_of()** to retrieve a pointer to the flex struct when needed.
 - Access the **FAM** via this pointer if necessary.

Conclusions

A three-step approach for the complex case:

- Use **struct_group_tagged()** to create a new tagged struct.
 - This groups together all members in the flex struct **except the FAM.**
- **Change the type** of the conflicting object to the newly created tagged struct.
- Use **container_of()** to retrieve a pointer to the flex struct when needed.
 - Access the **FAM** via this pointer if necessary.
- However, in some cases we can use **TRAILING_OVERLAP()**, instead.

Conclusions

For implicit unions on the stack (FAM & objects of the same element type):

- Use **DECLARE_FLEX()** when the FAM is annotated with `__counted_by()`.
- We can use **DECLARE_RAW_FLEX()** in any other case.

Conclusions

For implicit unions anywhere (FAM & a group of objects of any type):

- Use **TRAILING_OVERLAP()**

Conclusions

- Clear strategy to enable `-Wflex-array-member-not-at-end` in mainline, soon.
- Dozens of patches are already in mainline.
- Down to ~200 (from ~650) unique warnings.
- ~60% of total warnings addressed so far.

Thank you, Seoul! 🇰🇷

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By @shidokou